



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Gaithersburg Man Sentenced for 2017-Armed Robbery of Casino Employee

A Gaithersburg man, convicted of the 2017-armed robbery of a casino employee has been sentenced to 19 years in prison. Stacey Eric Wilburn, 32, of the unit block of Melvin Street, was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Richard S. Bernhardt this morning. Earlier this year, Wilburn entered an Alford plea to armed robbery, robbery, first-degree assault, theft and use of a firearm in a crime of violence for the January 27, 2017 robbery that occurred in the 7200 block of Maidstone Place in Elkridge. An Alford plea is a guilty plea that a defendant makes as part of a plea bargain, without actually admitting guilt but conceding that the state has sufficient evidence to convict.

According to police and prosecutors, Wilburn followed a pregnant, Howard County woman from the parking garage at Live! Casino at Arundel Mills to her Elkridge home where he brandished a handgun and demanded her wallet. When Wilburn discovered no cash in the wallet he threatened the woman but allowed her to go inside her home to retrieve cash. The victim returned with money but Wilburn had vanished.

The woman identified Wilburn from a photo array of suspects provided by the police two weeks after the robbery. At January's plea hearing, prosecutors stated that casino parking garage surveillance video would show Wilburn running back to his car after observing the woman drive down the exit ramp. Wilburn's white SUV then exited the garage within a minute of the woman's departure in her vehicle. When Wilburn was arrested, a loaded Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun was recovered from his vehicle, along with boxes of ammunition.

At sentencing, Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Ritter stated that Wilburn, "a problem gambler," committed three armed robberies of women "he could easily dominate" that day— two of whom were casino employees. Judge Bernhardt sentenced Wilburn to 14 years for the armed robbery and a consecutive five-year sentence on the firearm charge. The 19-year sentence will run concurrent with a 12-year sentence Wilburn is serving for two armed robberies he committed in Anne Arundel County.

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